

## VA CLOSING THE CIRCLE AWARD WINNER FOR 2003

**Awardee:** Beverly National Cemetery Team, Beverly, New Jersey  
**Project:** Leaf Recycling at Beverly National Cemetery



Innovation, community partnering, and conservation-focused thinking characterize the Beverly National Cemetery Team's (Team) award-winning *Leaf Recycling* project. Each autumn, leaves from more than 1,000 deciduous trees rain down on cemetery grounds. Initial, on-site leaf recycling efforts were a step in the right direction, but fairly labor and cost intensive. The Team forged a partnership with the Town of Delanco's Recycling Center that includes the recycling of excess leaves and tress into quality topsoil for the care and renovation of gravesites at no charge to the Beverly National Cemetery. This cooperative endeavor not only provided significant, direct cost savings, including \$60,000 for equipment the cemetery did not have to buy, thanks to their community partnership, but also delivered an excellent medium for grass seed and gravesite renovation. The result is an improved turf appearance to honor the final resting place of our Nation's veterans. For more information on the Beverly National Cemetery Team's *Leaf Recycling* project, and how you may be able to replicate it at your facility, contact Dee Blake at (609) 880-0827 or [dblake@cem.va.gov](mailto:dblake@cem.va.gov).

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**Awardee:** Sharon Ricketts Williams, VA Illiana Health Care System, Danville, Illinois

**Project:** Planning for Tomorrow, Today!



Sharon Ricketts Williams (at left, in photo with Patty Edington) is neither a stranger to the recycling program, nor to the Closing the Circle Awards program. In 1999, she won both a White House and VA Closing the Circle Award for an exceptional waste prevention and recycling project as part of a team effort at the VA Illiana Health Care System (VA IHCS). This year, her consistently outstanding contributions to the environment have earned her an individual VA Closing the Circle Award. Sharon employs the “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” philosophy to assist the VA IHCS in meeting the needs of its customers—patients, employees, service organizations, and the community. Reducing waste, redirecting equipment needs, recycling and buying recycled products are woven into daily operations at the medical center in resourceful and diverse ways, benefiting the medical center through both cost avoidance and revenue generation, which totaled nearly \$20,000 in fiscal year 2002. As Sharon notes, “full environmental compliance is not a goal; it is an expectation,” at VA IHCS. To learn about Sharon’s wide-ranging environmental efforts and how you may be able to implement them at your facility, contact her at (217) 554-5667 or [Sharon.Williams3@med.va.gov](mailto:Sharon.Williams3@med.va.gov).

**VA CLOSING THE CIRCLE AWARDS FOR 2003**  
**~HONORABLE MENTIONS~**

**Awardee:** John A. Flowers  
**Facility:** Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center  
**Location:** Phoenix, Arizona  
**Project:** Desert Landscaping at Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center  
**Contact:** John A. Flowers  
(602) 222-6437  
[John.Flowers@med.va.gov](mailto:John.Flowers@med.va.gov)

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**Awardee:** Stephen P. Quigley  
**Facility:** Northampton VA Medical Center  
**Location:** Leeds, Massachusetts  
**Project:** Pesticide Free Facility at Northampton VA Medical Center  
**Contact:** Alan Tyler  
(413) 582-3001  
[Alan.Tyler@med.va.gov](mailto:Alan.Tyler@med.va.gov)

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**Awardee:** Engineering, Environmental Management and Acquisition and Materiel  
Management Services Team  
**Facility:** North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System  
**Location:** Gainesville/Lake City, Florida  
**Project:** Recycling Program at North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health  
System  
**Contact:** Frank M. Campbell  
(386) 755-3016 x 2138  
<mailto:Frank.Campbell2@med.va.gov>